

MEMORANDUM

REFER TO OSD

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

DIA REVIEWED 25-Nov-2009: SANITIZED FOR RELEASE IN PART INFORMATION

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER *HK*
SUBJECT: Daily Report on Southeast Asia Situation

Secretary Laird has submitted his daily report on the situation in Southeast Asia covering activities through February 27 (Tab A).

Actions taken or underway include:

-- The enemy conducted sporadic shellings and small ground attacks and harassed friendly lines of communications during the 24 hours covered by this report.

-- In the Central Highlands there were three ambushes of ARVN convoys, and major elements of the 320th North Vietnamese Division are being positioned in Kontum Province.

-- The eastward movement of the 9th VC Division Forward Element from the Chup Plantation (Cambodia) provides additional evidence that increased tactical activity along the Cambodian-RVN (MR 3) border area is in the offing.

-- 25x1 to South Vietnam and Cambodia for January through April now stands at 74,000.

OSD REVIEWED 25 NOV 2009 NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 FEB 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR NATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

SUBJECT: Daily Report on Southeast Asia Situation

The following information is provided on recent US air activity in SEAsia:

a. US Air Sorties flown on 27 February:

<u>TacAir</u>	<u>B-52</u>	<u>Gunships</u>	<u>Non-Attack</u>	<u>Total</u>
307	50	26	70	453

b. Distribution of sorties was as follows:

Cambodia

B-52	1
Gunship	0
TacAir-Attack	51
Non-Attack	2

SVN

B-52	34
Gunship	1
TacAir-Attack	10
Non-Attack	3

NVN

TacAir-Attack	0
Non-Attack	28

North Laos

B-52	6
Gunship	5
TacAir-Attack	53
Non-Attack	12

South Laos

B-52	9
Gunship	20
TacAir-Attack	193
Non-Attack	25

TOTAL

B-52	50
Gunship	26
TacAir-Attack	307
Non-Attack	70

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING; DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY

COPY 1 OF 4 COPIES.

0957

TOP SECRET-SENSITIVE

The following summary of pacification status in the RVN is provided for your information:

The GVN increased its control of the rural population in all four military regions during 1971. Both the Hamlet Evaluation System (HES) and the Vietnam Special Studies Group (VSSG) indicators show a control gain of over 10 percent in MR's 3 and 4, although progress was less in MR's 1 and 2. The 1971 pacification indicators generally followed the trend of previous years by slowing down in the first half of the year, the dry season, and improving during the remainder of the year. The HES system reported 84.3 percent of the rural population under government control (A and B ratings) and the VSSG indicators rose from 66.9 to 76.0 percent of the rural population under GVN control. Continued progress of pacification, despite US troop withdrawals, may be attributed to greater GVN effectiveness and to a lower level of enemy activity. The latter factor is illustrated by the fact that the enemy averaged only 187 attacks per month in 1971 in contrast with 295 attacks per month in 1970.

The CJCS assessment of the current and prospective military situation is as follows:

a. Enemy initiated actions during the past 24 hours consisted of sporadic attacks by fire, LOC harassment and widely scattered small ground contacts.

b. In MR 2 there were three ambushes directed at ARVN convoys on Route 14 north-northwest of Pleiku City and one on Route 21 east of Ban Me Thuot. The current disposition of enemy forces suggests such activity will continue. In Kontum Province, information continues to reflect the positioning of major elements of the 320th NVA Division. The Headquarters, 64th NVA Regiment, 320th NVA Division has moved from the Tri-border area in Laos to a position some 18 miles northwest of Kontum City.

c. In Cambodia, the 9th VC Division Forward Element moved eastward some 14 miles from the Chup Plantation area. The 9th Division Forward Element and the Headquarters, 5th VC Division, have been engaged in exceptionally heavy message traffic with their regiments. There is tenuous information that the 9th VC Division's 271st Regiment has returned to the Chup Plantation area from its previous position west of the Mekong River. These recent developments provide further evidence that increased tactical activity along the Cambodian-RVN Military Region 3 border area is in the offing.

d. 25x1 to RVN/Cambodia for January through April 1972 now stands at 74,600.

